2017 was a year of great, positive change for Gulfcoast Legal Services (GLS). First and foremost, we at GLS reviewed the menu of services and began restructuring the agency to better meet the needs of our clients and the community. We renewed our dedication to providing high quality, comprehensive legal services in a culturally competent, trauma informed, empathetic manner.

GLS also recommitted to being an excellent steward of funding, the majority of which is from grants or public dollars. GLS developed strong internal controls while maintaining a balanced budget and positive cash flow. In addition, GLS began diversifying its funding mix and rebuilding emergency reserves. With a focus on client outcomes, we revamped our intake application and process and developed a comprehensive legal needs assessment. We also implemented professional development plans for staff to ensure they are equipped to provide high quality legal services.

The report that unfolds on next several pages highlights the impact and accomplishments our programs have made in our local communities.
MISSION Gulfcoast Legal Services is a non-profit organization serving the civil legal needs of vulnerable individuals, families and communities.

VISION Changing Lives Through Justice... As Gulfcoast Legal Services grows in prominence and scope, it remains committed to the promise of equal access to justice for all by zealously championing the rights of vulnerable persons through advocacy, education and secure sustainable financial support from both public and private sources.

VALUES

- Respond appropriately and timely to the needs of clients and treats all with respect and dignity and will strive to empower individuals through legal education and advocacy.
- Provide legal services for persons who face the deprivation of critical human needs, such as food, shelter, income, health care, family stability or personal safety.
- Foster collaboration and cooperation with regional partners, the community, local bar associations, the Judiciary and stakeholders, for the benefit of all.
- Provide leadership and public advocacy on behalf of clients and the community.

44% of Florida households struggle to meet basic needs. Pinellas, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties account for 41%, 43% and 38% of households, respectively. -2017 United Way Study

Of 1,686,806 residents in the three county service area, 13% are living in poverty.

$1 Donation to Civil Legal Aid

$7 ROI in Economic Impact
PROGRAM IMPACT

WHO WE SERVE
Total # of Unduplicated Clients:

3991

Client Demographics Served:

- 545 veterans
- 410 victims of crimes
- 2267 clients over 55

PROGRAMS
# of Clients Served in each Program Area:

- 1493 Housing
- 674 Immigration
- 1382 Financial Stability
- 374 Family Law

GEOGRAPHIC REACH
Pinellas, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties

Total # of People Served in each of the following counties:

- 1874 Pinellas
- 765 Manatee
- 1077 Sarasota
GLS helped me out with paperwork and were very diligent to let me know my options and what steps would occur. Thank you to all the staff for being there in a dark time of my life.

Family Law Client

“Great people who show that they care.”

“Our work at GLS gives us the opportunity to help people who are in desperate need for the legal assistance that brings justice to their legal issue as well as: a better quality of life, relief from a burden or unjust treatment, dignity, peace of mind, security, and enables them to improve the future for themselves and their families.”

GLS Staff Member
My sister and I both went through GLS in Venice for financial stability and planning for our senior years. Not only did our attorney meet with us and take the time to understand exactly what we needed, she followed up with any questions she had and met with us to finish our final documents.

Financial Stability Client
My sister and I both went through GLS in Venice for financial stability and planning for our senior years. Not only did our attorney meet with us and take the time to understand exactly what we needed, she followed up with any questions she had and met with us to finish our final documents.
Gulfcoast Legal Services is grateful for the generous funding it receives through grants and private donations, which allows us to provide services to low-income clients free of charge. Funding partners include, but are not limited to:

- US Department of Justice – Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
- US Department of Justice – Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
- US Department of Treasury – Internal Revenue Service (LITC)
- Cities of Clearwater, Largo, and Bradenton
- Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Florida Rural Legal Services
- United Way of South Sarasota County
- Community Foundations of Sarasota, Manatee, and Tampa Bay

www.gulfcoastlegal.org